THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The review of the Drug Policy, 1986, which includes the pricing aspects is at an advanced stage and modifications needed would be announced after finalisation of the decision in this regard.

Cost study for the price of Ethambutol HCL

1366. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the cost study into the fair price of Ethambutol HCL conducted by the Board of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) and upto what period it is valid;

(b) why fresh study has not been undertaken and the parties were allowed to continue to enjoy high prices;

(c) the number of other bulk drugs, where validity of the pricing period is over but BICP have not conducted fresh study; and

(d) the reasons therefor and who is responsible for such a state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Cost Study conducted by BICP in January, 1991 was valid upto March, 1993. Fresh study has already been initiated by BICP.

(c) and (d) Revision of prices is an on-going exercise. As on 27.7.94, the pricing period in respect of 48 other bulk drugs have expired and fresh cost price studies for all these 48 bulk drugs have already been initiated by BICP. BICP has informed that in several cases completion of studies is delayed due to lack of co-operation from the manufacturing units in furnishing the requisite data. Pending completion of the fresh studies, the prices of bulk drugs on the basis of earlier studies prevail.

New Policy MAPE for category-I

1367. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3871 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether under the new policy MAPE for CATEGORY-I formulations is proposed to be increased to 100 per cent and the span of price control is proposed to be reduced to about 45 per cent;

(b) whether this step alongwith the signing of GATT would result in spurt in prices of medicines which have already skyrocketed during the past three years;

(c) whether producers and traders are making exorbitant profits as there is no limit on the promotional expenses and trade commission; and

(d) why this aspect has not been studied as a part of review of the drug policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Review of the Drug Policy 1986 which *inter-alia* includes aspects of price control, including MAPE, is still in the process of being finalised. Most of the issues in this regard have already been dis-

cussed in the House in August 1993 and these are being taken into account while finaliging the matter. The signing while finalising the matter. The signing of GATT should not have any effect on prices of drugs already being produced in the country.

Semi-Synthetic Penicillin

1368. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that domestic price of Penicillin G an intermediate required for the production of semi-synthethetic penicillins, is notified and the weighted average price of local production and imports is taken into consideration in working out the prices of semi-synthetic Penicillines;

(b) on what basis the price of Rifampicin has been worked out and what weighted average price of Rifa-S has been taken in the absence of any fixed price for domestic production;

(c) whether it is a fact that such a situation has been allowed to prevail by the BICP to benefit few producers of this drug;

(d) what steps have been taken to inquire into the matter; and

(e) when was the cost study of this drug last conducted by BICP, upto what period was it valid and why fresh study has not been conducted thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The price of bulk drug Rifampicin is based on the weighted average cost of indigenous and imported drug intermediates *viz.* Rifa S and 3-Formyl Rifa SV. The price of indigenously produced drug intermediate Rifa-S has been adopted as Rs. 4100 per kg.

(e) The cost study conducted by BICP in 1991-92 was valid upto 31st March, 1994. Fresh study has already been initiated by BICP.

Prices of Cemitidine, Glipizide and other drugs

1369. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleastd to state:

(a) what is the price of Cemitidine, Povidine Iodine, Glipizide, Verapamil and Doxycycline on which the formulation prices are based at present and when were they last fixed;

(b) whether it is a fact that BICP has failed to cost study these drugs, if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the producer took advantage of Government lapses and made huge benefits; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to bring down the prices of these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) To the extent information is available. Cemitidine and Verapamil are not being manufactured indigenously and their demand is met through imports. For the bulk drugs Povidine Ioddine and Glipizide, their indigenous manufacturers are exempt from price control in accordance with the provision of the DPCO. The price of Rs. 5416/- per kg. for Doxycyline was notified on 20-8-92. BICP has completed the study for the revision of the price of Doxycyline and its recommendations were received on 25th July, 1994.